

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-12, 14, 16-20, and 22-25 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 5-9, 12, 14, 16-18, 20, and 22 are currently amended. Claims 3, 4, 13, 15, and 21 have been cancelled. Claims 23-25 have been added. New Claims 23-25 do not present new matter. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

SPECIFICATION

Applicant has submitted a replacement paragraph for originally filed paragraph [0023]. The amendments to paragraph [0023] correct typographical anomalies, and do not add new matter.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 9, 12, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Forster (U.S. Pat. No. 1,908,135). Claims 9 and 20 further stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hollingshead (U.S. Pat. No. 5,186,620). Additionally, Claims 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ogden (U.S. Pat. No. 4,702,691). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicant notes that independent Claims 1, 9, 12, and 20 have been amended as stated in more detail below to incorporate features that the Examiner has indicated to be allowable subject matter.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that Claim 19 is allowed and Claims 3-8, 13-18, 21, and 22 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 9, 12, and 20 to include allowable features originally set forth in the objected to claims.

Specifically, independent Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable features originally set forth in objected to Claim 4. Similarly, independent Claim 9 has been amended to essentially include the allowable features similar to those originally set forth in objected to Claim 3, with minor grammatical revisions. Additionally, independent Claim 12 has been amended to include the allowable features originally set forth in objected to Claim 13. Still further, independent Claim 20 has been amended to include the allowable features originally set forth in objected to Claim 21. Claims 5-7 and 22 have been amended to correct their respective dependencies upon the cancellation of Claims 4 and 21, respectively. Claims 8, 14, and 18 have been amended with minor grammatical revisions to properly correspond to amended independent Claims 1 and 12.

New independent Claims 23-25 have been added to further claim Applicant's invention and incorporate previously presented claims which the Examiner has stated would be given favorable consideration if suitably recast in independent form. For example, new Claim 23 is essentially the subject matter of Claim 8 written in independent form. New Claim 24 is essentially the subject matter of Claim 18 written in independent form. Lastly, new Claim 25 is essentially the subject matter of Claim 9 combined with the

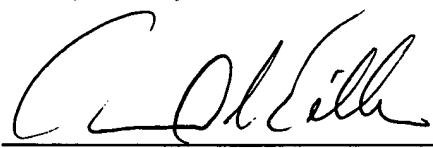
allowable features originally set forth in objected to Claim 8. It is respectfully submitted that these new claims are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 10, 2006

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